

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 065349  
ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SIG-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04  
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01  
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 DHA-02 SCS-03 ACDA-07  
AID-05 /097 R

DRAFTED BY AF/C:RLKATES:AF/I:LSHURTLEFF:AB  
APPROVED BY AF:WESCHAUFEE:AF/C:EMARKS  
-----240515Z 069357 /14

P 240120Z MAR 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY LISBON  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
USMISSION NATO  
AMEMBASSY ROME

S E C R E T STATE 065349

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GC

SUBJECT: ZAIRE SITREP

1. FOLLOWING IS FOR GENERAL BACKGROUND AND USE AS APPROPRIATE IN DISCUSSIONS WITH HOST GOVERNMENTS.

2. THERE WAS VERY LITTLE CHANGE IN THE TACTICAL SITUATION IN THE PAST 24 HOURS. THE FOUR-DAY LULL CONTINUED. THE ZAIRIAN FRONT LINE POSITIONS REMAIN APPROXIMATELY 15 MILES EAST OF KASAJI, I.E., 100 MILES WEST OF KOLWEZI.

3. WE ARE PUZZLED BY THE KATANGAN TACTICS. GIVEN THE  
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LACK OF SERIOUS ZAIRIAN RESISTANCE, THEIR SLOWNESS IN

ADVANCING WOULD SEEM TO REFLECT ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING CONSIDERATIONS: (A) AN EFFORT TO CONSOLIDATE AND BUILD LOCAL SUPPORT IN THE LUNDA TRIBAL AREA AS GOAL IN IT-

SELF AND OPERATING BASE AGAINST

MOBUTU; (B) AN EFFORT TO CHEW UP SMALL ZAIRIAN UNITS SENT AGAINST THEM WHILE ALLOWING TIME AND LOGISTIC PROBLEMS (INCLUDING FOOD) TO ERODE FURTHER FAZ MORALE; (C) RELUCTANCE TO TAKE ON RES-POSSIBILITY FOR FEEDING A LARGE (100,000) TOWN LIKE KOLWEZI, WHICH COULD UNDERCUT THEIR CURRENT EFFORT TO PORTRAY THE "GOOD

CONDITIONS" IN LUNDA TERRITORY UNDER THEIR RULE; (D) PREFERENCE FOR AN UNDRAMATIC BUILD-UP WHICH PROVIDES THE WEST WITH A MINIMAL JUSTIFICATION FOR SENDING AID TO MOBUTU.

4. INTELLIGENCE ANALYSIS: IN AN ANGOLAN DEFENSE MINISTRY COMMUNIQUE DATED MARCH 22, LUANDA ACCUSED ZAIRE OF BOMBING THREE ANGOLAN VILLAGES NEAR ZAIRE'S SHABA PROVINCE. ZAIRE DENIES THE ACCUSATION. WHILE IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE VILLAGES WERE BOMBED BY THE ZAIRIAN AIR FORCE BECAUSE THEY WERE SUSPECTED SUPPLY BASES OF THE HOSTILE FORCES, IT IS MORE LIKELY THAT THEY WERE STRUCK INADVERTENTLY DUE TO NAVIGATIONAL ERROR. THUS FAR MOBUTU APPEARS TO HAVE AVOIDED ACTIONS WHICH MIGHT GIVE ANGOLA AN EXCUSE FOR PROVIDING OPEN SUPPORT TO THE EX-KATANGAN GENDARMES.

5. AMERICAN CITIZENS: METHODIST MISSIONARIES WERE IN RADIO CONTACT WITH THEIR PEOPLE IN KAPANGA, KOLWEZI, AND TSHIKAPA. THE EIGHT MISSIONARIES IN REBEL-HELD KAPANGA REPORTED THAT THEY WERE ALL WELL. INABILITY TO CONTACT US MISSIONARIES IN THE LUIZA AREA NORTH OF  
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KAPANGA CONTINUED TO BE DISTURBING. OUR CONSULATE IN LUBUMBASHI HAS DETERMINED THAT THERE ARE CURRENTLY 180 AMERICAN CITIZENS IN THE SHABA REGION; MOSTLY CONCENTRATED IN LUBUMBASHI, KOLWEZI, AND KAMINA.  
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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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